

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the following paragraph beginning at page 6, line 19 and ending at page 7, line 2 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Menu 310 contains a long list of keywords, indicators 330 graduated in multi level by which the importance of each keyword is indicated, and a pair of buttons for each keyword: one for increasing the level of the degree of the importance, the other for decreasing it. The user can set the degree of importance (e.g. assigning a priority) for each keyword: the degree of importance for a keyword is increased by clicking the level-up button on the right side to move the pointer of each indicator 330, while it is decreased by clicking the level-down button on the left side. Through such operation, the user enters a retrieval request signal to search a desired image then clicks on searching button 320. In response to clicking menu, menu entry section 4 sends the entered retrieval request signal to rating section 33.--